

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 18-1792V

UNPUBLISHED

STEVEN LEWIS,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: March 24, 2021

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder  
Injury Related to Vaccine  
Administration (SIRVA)

*Bruce William Slane, Law Office of Bruce W. Slane, P.C., White Plains, NY, for  
Petitioner.*

*Mollie Danielle Gorney, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

On November 20, 2018, Steven Lewis filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that he suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered on October 22, 2016. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On November 13, 2020, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for SIRVA. On March 22, 2021, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$41,133.50 (comprised of \$40,000.00 for pain and suffering and \$1,133.50 for past, unreimbursed

<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

medical expenses). Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$41,133.50 (comprised of \$40,000.00 for pain and suffering and \$1,133.50 for past, unreimbursed medical expenses) in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**

Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
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No. 18-1792V

Chief Special Master Corcoran  
ECF

**RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

## **I. Items of Compensation**

On November 9, 2020, respondent filed an Amended Rule 4(c) Report, following a fact finding by the Chief Special Master regarding symptom onset, where he chose not to defend this case under the terms of the Vaccine Act for his shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) Table injury, after receipt of a flu vaccine administered on October 22, 2016. On November 13, 2020, Chief Special Master Corcoran issued a Ruling on Entitlement, finding that petitioner was entitled to compensation for his SIRVA. Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$41,133.50. The award is comprised of the following: \$40,000.00 for pain and suffering and \$1,133.50 for past, unreimbursed medical expenses. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

## II. Form of the Award

The parties recommend that compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment of **\$41,133.50**, in the form of a check payable to petitioner. Petitioner

agrees.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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/s/ Mollie D. Gorney  
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